In the Claims

1.(Cancelled)

2.(Currently amended) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 21, wherein:

said striker pin is disposable in at least first position and second positions, and wherein said striker pin is disposed in said fastener-accommodating portion of said body aperture in only one of said first and second positions.

3. (Currently amended) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 21, wherein:

said shaft of said striker pin comprises a shaft length measured along said reference axis of said body that is longer than a body length of said body measured along said reference axis.

4. (Original) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 3, wherein:

said shaft of said striker pin comprises a substantially uniform cross-sectional dimension perpendicular to said reference axis of said body.

5. (Currently amended) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 21, further comprising:

a shock absorbing material disposed on at least a portion of said body

6. (Currently amended) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 21, further comprising:

a rubber body extension interconnected with said second end of said body, wherein said rubber body extension comprises a longitudinally oriented extension aperture extending along said reference axis in substantial alignment with said body aperture.

7.(Original) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 6, further comprising:

a washer connected with said rubber body extension, wherein said washer is disposed at an end of said rubber body extension that is most remote from said second end of said body.

8.(Original) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 7, further comprising:

a spring disposed about said shaft of said striker pin between said washer and said impact head of said striker pin.

9.(Original) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 6, wherein:

said spacer comprises a first lateral extent of a first magnitude in a first direction substantially perpendicular to said reference axis of said body, wherein said rubber body extension comprises a second lateral extent of a second magnitude in said first direction, and wherein said first magnitude is greater than said second magnitude.

10. (Currently amended) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 21, further comprising:

a handle that is interconnected with and that extends out from said body between said first and second ends of said body.

11.(Original) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 10, wherein:

said handle is substantially immobile relative to said body.

12.(Original) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 10, further comprising:

a shock absorbing material disposed about at least a portion of said handle.

13.(Original) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 12, wherein:

said shock absorbing material comprises rubber.

14.(Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21.(New) An apparatus for use in installing a carpet tack strip adjacent a substantially vertical surface on a support surface, comprising:

a body comprising a longitudinal reference axis, a first and lower end and a second and upper end, longitudinally spaced from the lower ends, and a longitudinally oriented body aperture extending through the body, along said reference axis and between said first and second ends of said body, the body aperture having first and second portions corresponding to the first and second ends of the body, wherein said first body aperture portion includes a carpet tack accommodating portion disposed toward said first end of said body;

a striker pin disposed in the longitudinal body aperture, reciprocally movable along said reference axis and relative to said body, wherein said striker pin comprises a shaft, an upper part ~~of~~ which is disposed within at least the second portion of said body aperture, and a strikable impact head interconnected with said shaft extending beyond said body aperture and a lower part disposed in the first portion of said body aperture adjacent the carpet tack accommodating portion; and

a tack strip track assembly disposed adjacent said first end of said body, and comprising a horizontally disposed foot plate having a base portion for engaging the support surface, the base portion having disposed therein a tack strip accommodating guide channel, said channel being disposed generally parallel to the vertical surface adjacent which the tack strip is to be installed, the base portion further including a spacer portion disposed adjacent the channel and extending laterally therefrom to an extent terminating in an outer planar surface generally parallel to the guide channel for engaging the vertical surface and laterally spacing the track assembly and the body therefrom;

whereby said track assembly is oriented with the body aperture such that on impacting the striking head, the striking pin reciprocates to transit the carpet tack accommodating portion into the guide channel.

Amended Claims

1.(Cancelled)

2.(Currently amended) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 21, wherein:

said striker pin is disposable in at least first position and second positions, and wherein said striker pin is disposed in said fastener-accommodating portion of said body aperture in only one of said first and second positions.

3. (Currently amended) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 21, wherein:

said shaft of said striker pin comprises a shaft length measured along said reference axis of said body that is longer than a body length of said body measured along said reference axis.

4. (Original) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 3, wherein:

said shaft of said striker pin comprises a substantially uniform cross-sectional dimension perpendicular to said reference axis of said body.

5. (Currently amended) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 21, further comprising:

a shock absorbing material disposed on at least a portion of said body.

6. (Currently amended) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 21, further comprising:

a rubber body extension interconnected with said second end of said body, wherein said rubber body extension comprises a longitudinally oriented extension aperture extending along said reference axis in substantial alignment with said body aperture.

7.(Original) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 6, further comprising:

a washer connected with said rubber body extension, wherein said washer is disposed at an end of said rubber body extension that is most remote from said second end of said body.

8.(Original) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 7, further comprising:

a spring disposed about said shaft of said striker pin between said washer and said impact head of said striker pin.

9.(Original) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 6, wherein:

said spacer comprises a first lateral extent of a first magnitude in a first direction substantially perpendicular to said reference axis of said body, wherein said rubber body extension comprises a second lateral extent of a second magnitude in said first direction, and wherein said first magnitude is greater than said second magnitude.

10. (Currently amended) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 21, further comprising:

a handle that is interconnected with and that extends out from said body between said first and second ends of said body.

11.(Original) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 10, wherein:

said handle is substantially immobile relative to said body.

12.(Original) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 10, further comprising:

a shock absorbing material disposed about at least a portion of said handle.

13.(Original) An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 12, wherein:

said shock absorbing material comprises rubber.

14.(Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21.(New) An apparatus for use in installing a carpet tack strip adjacent a substantially vertical surface on a support surface, comprising:

a body comprising a longitudinal reference axis, a first and lower end and a second and upper end, longitudinally spaced from the lower ends, and a longitudinally oriented body aperture extending through the body, along said reference axis and between said first and second ends of said body, the body aperture having first and second portions corresponding to the first and second ends of the body, wherein said first body aperture portion includes a carpet tack accommodating portion disposed toward said first end of said body;

a striker pin disposed in the longitudinal body aperture, reciprocally movable along said reference axis and relative to said body, wherein said striker pin comprises a shaft, an upper part ~~of~~ which is disposed within at least the second portion of said body aperture, and a strikable impact head interconnected with said shaft extending beyond said body aperture and a lower part disposed in the first portion of said body aperture adjacent the carpet tack accommodating portion; and

a tack strip track assembly disposed adjacent said first end of said body, and comprising a horizontally disposed foot plate having a base portion for engaging the support surface, the base portion having disposed therein a tack strip accommodating guide channel, said channel being disposed generally parallel to the vertical surface adjacent which the tack strip is to be installed, the base portion further including a spacer portion disposed adjacent the channel and extending laterally therefrom to an extent terminating in an outer planar surface generally parallel to the guide channel for engaging the vertical surface and laterally spacing the track assembly and the body therefrom;

whereby said track assembly is oriented with the body aperture such that on impacting the striking head, the striking pin reciprocates to transit the carpet tack accommodating portion into the guide channel.